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Agenda item 54 (f)

Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/62/419, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 21st and 31st meetings, on 5 November and 5 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.21 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.15 and A/C.2/62/L.45

2. At the 21st meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/62/L.15), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002, 58/212 of 23 December 2003, 59/236 of 22 December 2004, 60/202 of 22 December 2005 and 61/204 of 20 December 2006,

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"*Recalling also* its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010,

"*Reiterating* that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

"*Noting* that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

"*Recalling* the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

"*Concerned* by the continued loss of biological diversity, and acknowledging that an unprecedented effort would be needed to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity,

"*Reaffirming* the need to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, as stipulated in the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"*Noting* the contribution that South-South cooperation can make in the area of biological diversity,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Urges* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

"3. *Urges* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so;

"4. *Urges* developed countries parties to the Convention to contribute with additional resources to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities, taking into account geographical balance;

"5. *Takes note* of the Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity, adopted on 28 March 2007 in Curitiba, Brazil;

"6. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and emphasizes that achieving this target requires an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and would not be possible without capacity-building, access to and transfer of technologies and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

"7. *Notes* the establishment of the Heads of Agency Task Force on the 2010 Biodiversity Target, as well as the convening of the first meeting of the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions

and the Rio Conventions aimed at enhancing scientific and technical collaboration for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;

"8. *Reaffirms* the importance of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 12 to 16 May 2008, and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Bonn, from 19 to 30 May 2008;

"9. *Stresses* the importance of finalizing the negotiations on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing within the framework of the Convention, and urges parties to make every effort to complete negotiations at the earliest and no later than 2010;

"10. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

"11. *Stresses* the importance of private-sector engagement for implementation of the objectives of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 target;

"12. *Takes note* of initiatives of developing countries for the enhanced implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

"13. *Invites* parties, other Governments and other relevant international organizations to make preparations to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010;

"14. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its Cartagena Protocol;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Convention on Biological Diversity'."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/62/L.45), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.15.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.45 (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.45, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.15 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002, 58/212 of 23 December 2003, 59/236 of 22 December 2004, 60/202 of 22 December 2005 and 61/204 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling also its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010,

Reiterating that the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Noting that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention and that one hundred and forty-two States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[2]

Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

Concerned by the continued loss of biological diversity, and acknowledging that an unprecedented effort would be needed to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity,

Noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[3] and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] (the "Rio Conventions"), while respecting their individual mandates, concerned by the negative impacts that loss of biodiversity, desertification, land degradation and climate change have on each other, and recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner with a view to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2226, No. 30619.
[3] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Acknowledging the contribution that the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, of the World Intellectual Property Organization, can make in enhancing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting the contribution that South-South cooperation can make in the area of biological diversity,

Taking note of the reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,[5]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Convention;[6]

2. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention[1] to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

3. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and emphasizes that this will require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

4. *Urges* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions;

5. *Notes* the establishment of the Heads of Agencies Task Force on the 2010 Biodiversity Target, as well as the convening of the first meeting of the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio Conventions aimed at enhancing scientific and technical collaboration for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[2] to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 12 to 16 May 2008, and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Bonn, from 19 to 30 May 2008;

7. *Notes* the progress made in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing towards elaborating and negotiating the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, stresses the importance of finalizing the negotiations on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing within the framework of the Convention, and urges parties to make every effort to complete negotiations at the earliest possible time, before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in 2010;

8. *Takes note* of the establishment by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of seven thematic programmes of work and welcomes the work initiated on cross-cutting issues;

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[5] Available from http://millenniumassessment.org.

[6] A/62/276, annex III.

9. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

10. *Stresses* the importance of private-sector engagement for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 target and invites businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including, inter alia, through partnerships;

11. *Takes note* of initiatives for the enhanced implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular those that are promoted by developing countries;

12. *Invites* parties to the Convention, other Governments, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make preparations to celebrate in 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity;

13. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[3] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

14. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention;

15. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;[7]

16. *Invites* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so, reiterates the commitment of States parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to support its implementation and stresses that this will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building for biosafety;

17. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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[7] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-first Session, Rome, 2-13 November 2001* (C 2001/REP), appendix D.